

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT Soviet Delegates at the International Congress of Orientalists, Cambridge, UK

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) -----
25X1C

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

DATE DISTR. 28 Oct 1954

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS REPORT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

25X1X

1. The International Congress of Orientalists held 21 Aug 54 through 28 Aug 54 at Cambridge University, UK, was attended by some 20 delegates from the USSR. [redacted] who attended the Congress, the Soviet delegation came without an invitation from the Congress committee. They were invited to the UK by the Soviet diplomatic mission in London. This got the Soviet delegates off to a bad start. Then, to add to the situation, the Soviet diplomatic officials gave a reception to which all delegates were invited. The UK hosts thought this to be in very bad taste and apparently other delegates from Western countries thought the same.
2. [redacted] the papers delivered by the Soviet scholars were outstanding in information in spite of their propaganda. The Soviets were openly critical of the colonial policy of the UK, France and, to a degree, of the US, while pointing out at great lengths, how much the Soviets had done for undeveloped areas now under Soviet control. One of the UK delegates, a former member of the UK colonial office, protested from the floor that it appeared as though the Soviet government looked upon its recently acquired areas as colonies as defined by the Western colonial nations. This caused the Soviets to tone down their comments.
3. The scholars of the Soviet delegation were under the leadership of L P Potapov, [redacted] He is an authority on the Turks of Siberia and is Director of the USSR Anthropology Museum. Potapov, prior to 1941 was not a Communist Party member but he knew how to get along with the Communist hierarchy. I do not think he is in accord with the principles of Soviet Communism but at the same time he has never been apparently offensive. He has been awarded the Stalin Prize for his work in anthropology.
4. The person who pulled the puppet strings for the Soviet scholars was Evgeni Mikhailovich Zhukov, who was elected corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1944. Zhukov is identified as being an expert on Japanese political history. He is about 48 years of age. He completed his graduate studies at the Leningrad Institute of Oriental Languages in 1931-1932. Zhukov

U.S. Officials Only
CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

[illegible]

This report is for the use within the USA of the Intelligence components of the Departments or Agencies indicated above. It is not to be transmitted overseas without the concurrence of the originating office through the Assistant Director of the Office of Collection and Dissemination, CIA.

- 2 -

came to the Leningrad Institute as a full fledged Communist Party member and during his stay was active in the Institute's central committee. From 1932 to 1936 he devoted his time to writing newspaper articles on Japan for Pravda. In 1936 he went to Moscow for an assignment with the USSR foreign office and thence to Japan. In 1938 he returned to the USSR for work in the Academy. Most of his time was occupied in the "secret division" that kept the personal files of the people employed in the Academy. Zhukov was responsible for the purging of many Soviet scholars for deviationism. He saw Trotskyism in almost everyone whom he thought was an intellectual superior, and, owing to his Party loyalty, his judgment was accepted without question. [REDACTED] found Zhukov to be intellectually incompetent and obnoxious. Zhukov married Ida Tseitlin, daughter of a Jewish physician in Leningrad. She was then a member of the Young Communist League and now I assume she is a full fledged Party member. Zhukov has never written a scholarly work -- most of his material follows the Party line and appears in government newspapers. During his attendance at the International Congress of Orientalists, according to my source, he devoted his time to keeping the other delegates in line -- a job for which he is eminently qualified.

25X1X

5. Other Soviet Orientalists who attended the congress include:

- a. [fnu] Belyayev, an Arabist, who is a non-Party member, an expert on Persian qualified in his field.
- b. Evgeni Eduardovich Bertels, non-Party member, an expert on Persian literature. He has had a difficult time surviving Communism, and during the purges of the 1930's he spent some time in jail. He is an outstanding scholar who is unable to do anything about his untenable situation. 25X1X
- c. [fnu] Boratayev, a Kazakh, [REDACTED]
- d. [fnu] Gershevich, a Russian-Jew, [REDACTED] 25X1X
- e. [fnu] Ilyinskiy, a Russian, [REDACTED] 25X1X
- f. [fnu] Ivanov, a Russian who is a specialist on the history of Central Asia. He is a Party member and follows the Communist line to the letter.
- g. [fnu] Iuldashev, a Tatar, [REDACTED] 25X1X
- h. [fnu] Kalyanov, a Russian, is an expert on Sanskrit and Indian history. He is a Party member. He is not a serious scholar. Despite his Party membership he is a likable and harmless person.
- i. [fnu] Kovalyov (if this is his name), is a Russian. He is not a Party member, and during the purges of the 1930's he spent some time in jail. He is an expert on Russian and Oriental history.
- j. [fnu] Kuliyev, a Turkman, [REDACTED] 25X1X
- k. [fnu] Tukhviski, a Russian, [REDACTED] 25X1X
- l. A N Kononov, a Russian, is a Party member but a harmless Communist. He is well known for his works in the Turkish language.
- m. [fnu] Guber, a Russian-Jew, [REDACTED] 25X1X

6. The Soviet delegates were friendly with the Western group but did not discuss matters that were not covered in their papers. All of the Soviets' papers were printed in English. Their talks, however, were delivered in Russian. [REDACTED] 25X1X said that the Soviets came out with what might be termed as a "scientific or scholarly offensive." [REDACTED] means by this statement but it could be that owing to the Soviet dominance at the meetings they were trying to force their ideas on the other scholars.

25X1X

- end -

CONFIDENTIAL
US OFFICIALS ONLY

LIBRARY SUBJECT & AREA CODES
C-02-0615 10/54
182.5 1(GM)(N)
917.805 N